

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report and Tabular Statistics for 1907.

(ABBREVIATED).

Table 1. BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

YEAR.	Population.	Births.		Deaths under 1 year old.		Total Deaths.	
		No.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	No.	Rate per 1,000 of Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1897	4618	137	29·6	6	1·29	45	9·7
1898	"	130	28·1	15	3·24	60	12·99
1899	"	139	30·0	16	3·46	75	16·2
1900	"	108	23·3	11	2·38	63	13·64
1901	5074	122	24·2	9	1·7	66	13·0
1902	"	129	25·4	14	2·7	72	14·1
1903	"	130	25·6	10	1·9	62	12·2
1904	"	131	25·8	8	1·5	55	10·8
1905	"	117	23·05	6	1·18	41	8·08
1906	"	128	25·22	9	1·77	71	13·99
Average of foregoing		127·1	25·7	10·4	1·6	61	12·0
1907	5074	116	22·86	14	2·7	75	14·75

To these must be added the number of deaths of Borough persons in the Rural District, viz.: in the Union Workhouse and at the Isolation Hospital 7

The above number of deaths 75 include 6 cases of death at the Cottage Hospital of whom 1 did not belong to the Borough

6

Making the Total Figures attributable to the District ... 81 | 15·96
 Number of Inhabited Houses in Borough—1901 Census ... 1185, now estimated at 1265
 Average Number of Persons per House ... 4·3 „ 4·0

Table 2 does not apply to Chippenham.**Table 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

	No.	Sent to Isolation Hospital.
Diphtheria	12	5
Erysipelas	5	...
Scarlet Fever	14	11
Puerperal Fever	2	...
Totals	33	16

Table 4. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

CAUSE.	Total No.	Ages.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 or above
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	3	...	...	...	...	3	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer	5	...	...	...	...	2	3
Bronchitis	4	1	...	...	...	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease	12	...	...	...	...	4	8
Accidents (died at Cottage Hospital)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes (5 at Cottage Hospital)	49	10	1	...	2	13	23
Total	81	14	3	1	2	23	38

Table 5. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1907.

Diarrhoea Diseases, 1 viz.	1	Death in 3rd month			
Wasting Diseases, 8	4	" under 1 week			
	1	" in 2nd week			
	1	" in 4th week	Legitimate	113	13
	2	" in 2nd month	Illegitimate	3	1
Tuberculous Disease	1	" in 9th month			
Other causes, 4 viz.	1	" in 6th month			
	1	" in 7th month			
	1	" in 10th month			
	1	" in 12th month			

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

The Tables I have just read to you are so complete in the information they give that little is left for me to discourse upon. In Table iii, cases notified, the patients resided in different parts of the Town, locality did not seem to influence disease in any instance.

Through the Town runs a bend of the River Avon, entering at the South East looping round on the North, and passing out at the South, the Eastern half of the river bend is at a higher level than the Western half, being kept up 6 or 8 feet by a Mill and Weir by the Town Bridge.

Most of the new houses have been erected on the North side of the River. Into the Southern portion of the Town runs a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal at a higher level than the River, and not communicating with it, the Canal is now little used. The Town lies in a valley, having higher ground on every side, still, the Town almost everywhere stands well above the river level and has well marked regular slopes towards each part of the stream.

The soil of the Town is corn brash. To the South East and West of the Town this corn brash is covered in many parts with a considerable depth by Oxford clay.

INDUSTRIES—The principal Industries are, in the Southern portion a large Milk Factory, a Cloth Factory; and in the Northern portion a large Iron Works, Bacon Curing Co., and a smaller Iron Works. None of these works or occupations influence the public health.

The increased population within the past ten years has demanded an increase in house accommodation, private enterprise has resulted in the building of a large number of new houses, and this has been supplemented by a private company who built a large number of good class artizan dwellings just without the Urban District; these new Streets are all 36 feet wide.

The Urban houses are inspected by your Surveyor before occupation. The plans being submitted to you before erection. There is now little difficulty for a family to obtain a sufficiently large house provided they can pay the rent.

SEWERAGE WORKS—These Works have now been in use for 18 months they are giving satisfaction, a good effluent being obtained. During the summer complaints were made as to the smell from the liquifying tank, this has been remedied by reducing the time the sewage is kept in this tank. Instructions have been given to the Borough Surveyor to prepare a plan for providing new sewers to replace existing drock drains and other old sewers, when this is completed it is the intention of the Council to execute this plan in sections so that all future work will be done in a systematic manner. During this year sections of new sewers have been laid in Timber Street, High Street, Market Place, London Road and Blind Lane.

All the Courts and Squares except one are paved with impervious material, great attention has been given during the year to the trapping of gullies in the Courts and Squares.

SCAVENGING—Great difficulty has been experienced this year in disposing of the town refuse removed by the Town Scavengers. The Rural District Council complained of its being deposited in situations where it became a nuisance. A fresh arrangement has been now made by you with a farmer who deals with it in such a manner that it is not a nuisance, for which he is paid. The whole of your district has the same water supply, viz.: from a well the property of your Council, the quality of the water is undeniable, as proved by the various analyses you have had made from time to time, an analysis was made this year.

Inspections have been made of the Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses (including 3 inspections of the Bacon Factory) Bake Houses, Dairies and Cowsheds, Milkshops, Factories and Workshops. I append the Report I have sent to the Home Office, as to the conditions of the Factories within your district. There are no offensive trades carried on in Chippenham.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected, the Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the Schools was found to be satisfactory. During the last year I have attended your Committee Meetings and reported the Zymotic cases notified during the preceding month. A systematic inspection of the district was made and all the courts were visited. Special inspections were also made at the homes or districts where epidemic disease was present or had been present, and as a result several unhealthy conditions were removed. Printed instructions for disinfection were distributed at every house where infectious disease was present, and on the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, or the recovery of the patient, the rooms were fumigated by your Surveyor.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL—This Hospital was in use most months of the year, during July and part of August it was closed, the interval was utilised for a general clean up, thorough disinfection and the carrying out of some necessary repairs.

In November I reported to the Joint Committee that the wards for the treatment of Diphtheria were not at all times sufficiently large for the number of patients seeking admission, steps are now being taken to improve and increase the accommodation. 51 patients have been admitted during the year, of these 16 came from the Urban District—11 cases of Scarlatina, 5 of Diphtheria ; 35 cases from the Rural District—Scarlatina 24, Diphtheria 9, Enteric Fever 2. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who kindly sent toys, books, illustrated papers and children's clothes to the Hospital, all are much appreciated, children's clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find warm garments for the little ones when they are about to leave this warm ward for their draughty cottage home.

These, Gentlemen, are some of the more important sanitary matters which have engaged your attention and the attention of your officers during the past year. I have to thank Mr. Adams for his ready aid and prompt action in dealing with many small matters which did not come before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, B.A., M.D.

